

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) An electronic interface for collecting information for a data picture, the interface comprising:

a data palette providing a set of data parameters available for selection, said set of data parameters including at least some corresponding to predefined statements concerning at least one of an action ~~and/or~~ a transaction; and

a data canvas on which a selected set of one or more of said set of data parameters can be displayed and relatively positioned arbitrarily ~~by a user~~ via input from a user-controlled input device in communication with the interface to generate the data picture,

wherein the data picture includes a display of a graphical relative positioning of the selected set of data parameters relative to one another, the graphical relative positioning being configured ~~by the user~~ via the input within the data canvas and wherein a data structure is created or modified using the selected set of one or more of said set of data parameters and the graphical relative positioning of the selected set of one or more of said set of data parameters of the data picture.

43. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said selected set of data parameters can be selected and physically moved ~~by such user~~ to a gradient on said data canvas by physically manipulating ~~an electronic pointing device~~ the user-controlled input device.

44. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein the data picture is generated using a single data capture screen including said data palette and said data canvas.

45. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein the data picture is translatable into one or more electronic records including numeric data values.

46. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 45, wherein said numeric data values are based on ~~the~~ a physical location of said selected set of data parameters as placed ~~by the user~~ on said data canvas.

47. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said selected set of data parameters, including individual ones of said selected group of predefined statements can be ranked in relative importance ~~by the user~~ based on their locations on said data canvas.

48. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 47, further wherein said data canvas conveys visible feedback information ~~when the user is relatively~~ during relative positioning said selected set of data parameters.

49. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said sets of data parameters include factors associated with lessons learned ~~by a user~~ concerning ~~such~~ the at least one of the action and/or or the transaction.

50. (Original) The interface of claim 42, wherein said interface also provides a visual comparison between data in said data picture and other data pictures

51. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said interface also provides visual feedback ~~to such operator~~ based on an evaluation of said data in the data picture.

52. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said set of data parameters can be customized ~~by the user~~.

53-90. (Canceled).

91. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, if executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform a method comprising:

~~— a signal bearing medium bearing at least one of~~

~~— one or more instructions for~~ providing a data palette, said palette including a set of data parameters available for selection ~~by a user~~, such that said set of data parameters includes at least ~~some one~~ one corresponding to predefined statements concerning at least one of an action ~~and/or or~~ a transaction; ~~and~~

~~— one or more instructions for~~ providing a data canvas on which selected data parameters can be displayed and relatively positioned arbitrarily ~~by said user~~ to generate a data picture;

~~wherein the data picture can be based at least in part on receiving input via a user-controlled input device to display on the data picture a graphical relative positioning of a selected group of said predefined statements collected from said user and pertaining to the user's mental impressions concerning said~~ at least one of the action and/or said or the transaction[[,]];

creating or modifying a data structure using said graphical relative positioning being configured by the user input from the user-controlled input device within the data canvas based on physical positions selected by the user determined via the input within the data canvas for said predefined statements and/or a relative spatial relationship between said predefined statements within the data canvas concerning said action and/or said transaction.

92. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium of claim 91, wherein information collected from ~~said user~~ the input is captured using a single data picture.

93. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium of claim 91, wherein all information for the data picture is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

94. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium of claim 91, wherein the data picture is stored as part of a transaction record which includes numeric data values.

95. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium of claim ~~91~~ 94, wherein said numeric data values are based on the physical ~~location~~ positions of said selected data parameters as placed ~~by the user~~ on said data canvas.

96. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program-product~~ -readable medium of claim 91, ~~further including one or more instructions for~~ wherein the method further comprises permitting ~~said user~~ inputs to rank said selected data parameters, including said selected group of said predefined statements, on said data canvas.

97. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 91, wherein said selected data parameters can be ranked according to their physical arrangement on said data canvas.

98. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 91, ~~further including one or more instructions for~~ wherein the method further includes providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of the data picture to ~~present the user with~~ display a visual output depicting an expected outcome of ~~said the~~ at least one of the action ~~and/or~~ and the said transaction based on the data picture.

99. (Currently Amended) A method of permitting a user to input a data picture expressing mental impressions concerning at least one of an action ~~and/or~~ transaction, the method comprising:

~~—providing a set of a plurality of individual assertions, said assertions being associated with such mental impressions; and~~

~~displaying said~~ at least one set of assertions associated with mental impressions to the user in a first portion of a visible electronic interface; ~~and~~

~~permitting the user~~ receiving input from a user-controlled input device to select and move personalized individual assertions taken from said sets of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible interface, which second separate portion acts as a data canvas for displaying such personalized individual assertions; ~~and~~ wherein said personalized individual assertions can be relatively positioned ~~by the user~~ via the input relative to one another within the data canvas to create the data picture[.]; ~~and~~

creating or modifying a data structure using the personalized individual assertions taken from the sets of assertions and positions of the personalized individual assertions within the data canvas.

100. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein all information collected ~~from said user~~ for the at least one of the action ~~and/or~~ or transaction is captured using a single data picture.

101. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein all information is captured for the at least one of the action ~~and/or~~ or transaction during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

102. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein numeric data values are assigned to said personalized individual assertions based on ~~the~~ physical location of said personalized individual assertions as placed ~~by the user~~ on said data canvas.

103. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 99, further including ~~a step of~~ ~~permitting said user~~ receiving input to rank said personalized individual assertions on said data canvas.

104. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~103~~ 99, wherein said personalized individual assertions can be ranked according to their physical arrangement on said data canvas.

105. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 99, further including providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of the data picture to present ~~the user with~~ a visual output depicting an expected outcome of ~~said~~ the at least one of the action ~~and/or said~~ or the transaction based on the data picture.

106. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing data concerning an actual or proposed transaction from ~~the~~ a user of a computing system, ~~said system including at least a keyboard and pointing device for inputting data,~~ the method comprising:

~~— providing a set of a plurality of individual assertions, said assertions being associated with mental impressions of the user relating to the transaction; and~~

displaying ~~said~~ at least one set ~~sets~~ of assertions associated with mental impressions relating to the transaction ~~to the user~~ in a first portion of a visible electronic interface; ~~and~~

~~permitting the user~~ receiving input via a user-controlled input device to select and move the selected assertions taken from said set of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible electronic interface, which second separate portion acts to display such selected assertions along a visible gradient; ~~and~~

~~permitting the user~~ receiving input via a user-controlled input device to relatively position said selected assertions in a ranking order relative to each other ~~along said~~ and relative to the visible gradient to create a data picture[[]]; and

creating or modifying a data structure using the selected assertions and the ranking order relative to each other and relative to the visible gradient.

107. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 further wherein all information collected ~~from said user~~ for the actual and/or proposed transaction is captured using said set of assertions.

108. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 further wherein all of the user's information for the actual ~~and/or~~ proposed transaction is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

109. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein numeric data values are assigned to said selected assertions based on their physical location as placed ~~by the user~~ on said data canvas.

110. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, further including a step of ~~providing~~ displaying on the visible electronic interface a visual comparison between the data picture and data collected ~~from said user~~ during a prior data capture session.

111. (Currently Amended) A method of generating program data from user input data concerning an actual or proposed action and/or transaction, the method comprising:

providing ~~the user with~~ a palette of individual assertions associated with the user's perceptions of ~~such the~~ action ~~and/or~~ transaction in a first portion of a visible interface; and

~~permitting the user~~ receiving input via a user-controlled input device to select and move selected assertions taken from said set of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible interface, which second separate portion acts to visibly display such selected assertions;

~~permitting the user~~ receiving input via a user-controlled input device to relatively position said selected assertions in a ranking order relative to each other so as to constitute ~~the~~ user input data; and

converting the user input data into program data on a machine, by assigning numerical values to such program data corresponding to said relative positioning of said selected assertions.

112. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, wherein said numeric data values are based on ~~the~~ physical location of said assertions as placed ~~by the user~~ on said second separate portion of said interface.

113. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, further including ~~providing~~ displaying on the visible interface a gradient ~~visible to the user~~ for assisting in the ranking of said selected assertions.

114. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, further including providing visible feedback information ~~when the user relatively positions~~ during relative positioning of said selected assertions.

115. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, wherein said palette of individual assertions include statements associated with lessons learned ~~by a user~~ concerning ~~such~~ the action and/or transaction.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115, further including retrieving and modifying any of said lessons associated with the user input data at a later time.

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111 wherein said palette of individual assertions can be customized at least in part ~~by the user~~ via input from the user-controlled input device.

118. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, further including providing on the visible interface a visual comparison between the user input data and program data collected ~~from said user~~ during a prior session.

119. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111, further including providing on the visible interface visual feedback based on an evaluation of the user input data to ~~present the user with~~ display a visual output depicting an expected outcome of said action and/or said transaction based on the user input data.

120. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 111 further wherein all of the ~~user's~~ information concerning an actual or proposed transaction is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

121. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing input data ~~from a user~~ within an electronic interface comprising:

——(a) providing a menu within the interface for presenting a set of data parameters ~~to the user~~;

——(b) providing a canvas in association with the interface for creating a data record based on said set of data parameters;

——(c) moving receiving input from a user-controlled input device to move a selected data parameter from the set of data parameters to said canvas; ~~and~~

——(d) receiving input from the user-controlled input device to graphically relatively positioning said selected data parameter on said canvas so as to indicate a corresponding weighting factor to be associated with said selected data parameter; ~~and~~

creating or modifying a data structure using the selected data parameter and the graphical relative positioning of the selected data parameters on said canvas.

122. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein said data record is used as a query to locate additional information ~~for the user~~.

123. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein said data record is compared against other data records in ~~the~~ a visual analysis is presented to the user displayed on the interface.

124. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein said weighting factor is based on a physical location of the selected data parameter within the interface provided ~~by the user~~.

125. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 124, wherein both a horizontal location and a vertical location are used to determine said weighting factor.

126. (Currently Amended) A method of providing feedback ~~to a user~~ during a data input session using an electronic data interface, the method comprising:

———(a) collecting input data ~~from the user~~ using a the electronic data interface, said input data comprising:

i) one or more selected data parameters selected via input received from a user-controlled input device ;

ii) weighting information identifying a corresponding weighting factor ~~to be~~ given to ~~each of~~ at least one of said one or more selected data parameters based at least in part on the relative positioning of each of the one or more selected parameters based on input received from the user-controlled input device; and

———(b) providing feedback information ~~to the user~~ while ~~the user is providing~~ collecting said input data, said feedback information being based at least in part on said input data ~~such that the user can monitor the~~ to show an effect of changing said one or more selected data parameters and/or their associated weighting factors based on relative positioning of each of the selected data parameters ~~by the user~~.

127. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 126, wherein said feedback information includes: ~~(a)~~ at least one of a set of data records correlating with said input data; ~~(b)~~ a list of proposed options based on said input data; ~~(c)~~ changes in an appearance of said electronic data interface; ~~and/or (d)~~ a prediction of expected financial return based on input data; ~~(e)~~ and a financial performance associated with transactions using said input data.

128. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said data input session is conducted using a Java™ applet operating within an Internet browser.

129. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 126, wherein said data parameters correspond to reasons, motivations or perceptions concerning a transaction and/or action ~~by the user~~.

130. (Canceled).

131. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating data records associated with an action and/or transaction, the method comprising:

———(a) storing one or more data records, each of said data records including:

i) a set of data parameters identified ~~by a user~~ as pertaining to the action and/or transaction;

ii) a weighting factor to be given to ~~each~~ at least one of the data parameters ~~in said set of data parameters~~ based on a relative positioning ~~of each~~ of the data parameters on an electronic interface by the user;

———(b) processing a query ~~by the user~~ with a computer system, said query requesting an evaluation of a frequency of usage for a data parameter, and/or an evaluation of a rating given to a weighting factor associated with said data parameter, across said data records or a subset thereof; and

———(c) providing feedback ~~to the user~~ from the computer system in response to said query.

132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a chart and/or graph.

133. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~132~~ 131, wherein said feedback includes a proposed model sets of data records and weighting factors.

134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a prediction associated with using said one or more of data records.

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a financial performance associated with using said one or more data records.

136. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a data record based on input data ~~from a user~~ provided with an interface, the method comprising:

———(a) generating a first data picture at a first time within the interface, said first data picture including a first set of data parameters and associated weighting factors shown via relative positioning of the first set of data parameters as displayed on the interface,

wherein said first data picture is created before ~~the user performs~~ receiving an input to effect an action and/or transaction associated with said first set of data parameters;

——(b) generating a second data picture at a second time within the interface, said second data picture including a second set of data parameters and associated weighting factors based on a relative positioning of each of the second set of data parameters ~~by the user~~ as displayed on the interface in response to input received from a user-controlled input device,

wherein said second data picture is created after ~~the user performs~~ said action and/or said transaction is performed ; and

——(e) modifying said second data picture at a third time within the interface using said second set of data parameters via input received from a user-controlled input device,

wherein both said first data picture and said second picture are used to create a data record.

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 136, wherein said first data picture is not alterable after it is created.

138. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 136, wherein said action and/or transaction pertains to trading a security, and said first data picture is associated with ~~the~~ a purchase of said security, and said second data picture is associated with a sale of said security.

139. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 138, further including:
providing feedback to the user to indicate a financial performance associated with said trading of said security.

140. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 138, wherein said first sets of data parameters pertain to a motivation and/or reason ~~of the user~~ for engaging in said action and/or transaction, and said second set of data parameters pertain to a lesson learned ~~by the user~~ from engaging in said action and/or transaction.

141. (Currently Amended) A data picture record derived from data input in the form of a graphical arrangement ~~by a user~~, the data picture record comprising:

an identifier indicating a particular action and/or a transaction identified ~~by the user~~ as related to the data input;

an identity of a data parameter selected ~~by the user~~ to express the data input and used in the graphical arrangement for the particular action and/or transaction; and

a weighting factor associated with said data parameter, said weighting factor being derived from a relative placement of said data parameter within the graphical arrangement wherein said weighting factor is based on a physical coordinate location within a data canvas.

142. (Currently Amended) The data picture record of claim 141, wherein a collection of data picture records are grouped for said action and/or transaction.

143. (Currently Amended) The data picture record of claim 142, wherein said collection data picture records include data picture records created before said action and/or transaction, and data picture records created after said action and/or transaction.

144. (Cancelled)

145. (Currently amended) The data picture of claim ~~144~~ 141, wherein both a horizontal position and a vertical position are considered in determining said weighting factor.

146. (New) An apparatus for collecting information, the apparatus comprising:
an input device;
a display responsive to the input device, wherein the display is configured to provide:
at least one set of data parameters available for selection via the input device,
a data canvas area on which a selected set of one or more of the data parameters can be displayed and relatively positioned arbitrarily via input signals from the input device;
a memory configured to store a data structure created or modified responsively to the selected set of one or more of the data parameters and the graphical relative positioning of the selected set of one or more of the data parameters on the data canvas area.

147. (New) The apparatus of claim 146, wherein the graphical relative positioning of the selected set of one or more of the data parameters comprises a rank in relative importance of the selected set of one or more of the data parameters.

148. (New) The apparatus of claim 146, further wherein said data canvas conveys visible feedback information during relative positioning said selected set of data parameters.

149. (New) The apparatus of claim 146, wherein the data structure comprises a weighting factor associated with at least one of the selected set of data parameters, the weighting factor being derived from a relative placement of the data parameter within the data canvas area.

150. (New) A data structure comprising:
a transaction identifier;
data parameter identity information listing data parameters associated with the transaction identifier; and

location placement information for the data parameters associated with the transaction identifier, the location placement information reflecting graphical relative positioning of the data parameters on the data canvas area;

wherein the data structure represents a data picture created with an input device and a display configured to provide data parameters available for selection and placement on a data canvas area in order to create the data picture.

151. (New) The data structure of claim 150, further comprising a plurality of transaction identifiers associated with a plurality of transactions with data parameter identity information and location placement information separately associated with each transaction identifier.

152. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for providing a data palette, said palette including a set of data parameters available for selection, such that said set of data parameters includes at least one corresponding to predefined statements concerning at least one of an action or a transaction;

means for providing a data canvas on which selected data parameters can be displayed and relatively positioned arbitrarily to generate a data picture;

means for receiving input via a user-controlled input device to display on the data picture a graphical relative positioning of a selected group of said predefined statements pertaining to the at least one of the action or the transaction;

means for creating or modifying a data structure using said graphical relative positioning being configured by the input from the user-controlled input device within the data canvas based on physical positions determined via the input within the data canvas for said predefined statements and a relative spatial relationship between said predefined statements within the data canvas concerning said action and/or said transaction.